

# Land and livelihood strategies to improve nutrition in rural India: a mixed methods study

**Food Diets & Nutrition: 25 Years of Progress for Nepal**

**6th Annual Scientific Symposium on Agriculture-Nutrition Pathways & 25 Years of Nepal's Progress in Nutrition**

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## UPAVAN: UPSCALING PARTICIPATORY ACTION AND VIDEOS FOR AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION

### PARTNERS



Digital Green



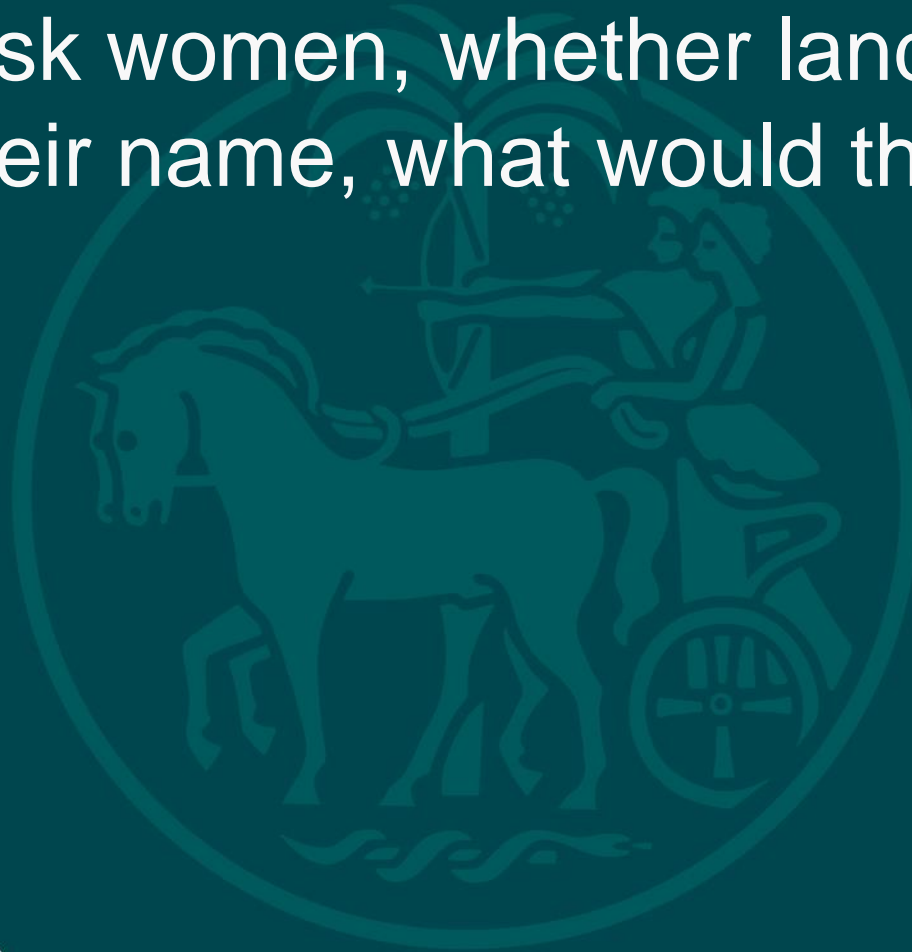
### FUNDERS

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If you ask women, whether land should be in their name, what would they say?



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# Conclusions

- *When women are asked in groups, the answers range from instantaneous rejection, to some who prefer the status quo while some others respond positively*
- *Why is it important to understand such norms related to land ownership and use?*

# Study background

- Historical context of land rights and women's land rights movement in India
- Women empowerment as a pathway to link ag-nut interventions
- Gender-disaggregated data on land ownership and control is lacking (Doss et al., 2015).

# Research Questions

1. How does women's land ownership, control, and agricultural productive decision-making affect livelihood strategies?
2. How do different livelihood typologies influence nutritional outcomes?

# Objectives of this paper



# Study setting and context

Kadiyala et al. *Trials* (2018) 19:176  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-018-2521-y>

## STUDY PROTOCOL

Open Access

Upscaling Participatory Action and Videos for Agriculture and Nutrition (UPAVAN) trial comparing three variants of a nutrition-sensitive agricultural extension intervention to improve maternal and child nutritional outcomes in rural Odisha, India: study protocol for a cluster randomised controlled trial

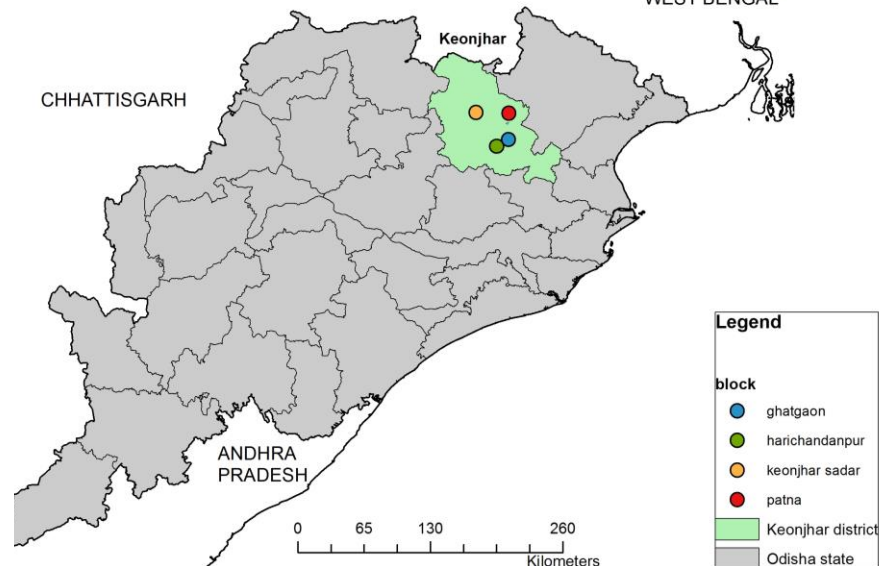
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Trials



JHARKHAND

WEST BENGAL



148 clusters



# Methodology for this presentation

## Mixed methods approach

- 4480 quantitative

interviews

- 32 in-depth interviews

- 6 focus group

discussions

# Results

	IDI respondents	FGD participants	Baseline survey
n	32	67	4480
Age, mean (range)	32.7	35	24.5
Pregnant, %	18.8	4.5	1.7
Mothers of children under 2, %	18.8	17.9	100
SC, %	6.3	25.8	9.1
ST, %	28.1	4.5	58.4
OBC, %	37.5	68.7	30.0
Other, %	28.1	1.5	2.4
SHG member, %	-	86.6	6.3
Marginal farmer (>0 to 0.25 acres), %	-	53.7	83.3
Small farmer (> 2.5 to 5 acres), %	-	16.4	12.7
Medium farmer (> 5 to 10 acres), %	-	11.9	3.1
Large farmer (>10 acres)	-	4.5	0.9
No land, %	3.1	13.4	0.1
Unmarried/Widowed, %	-	12	0.7

# Contextual analysis



## Agricultural practices

- *Seasonal paddy*
- *Homestead garden*
- *Some livestock*
- *Foraging*

Water availability and  
space constraints

## Land ownership

- *Men, mostly father  
in law*

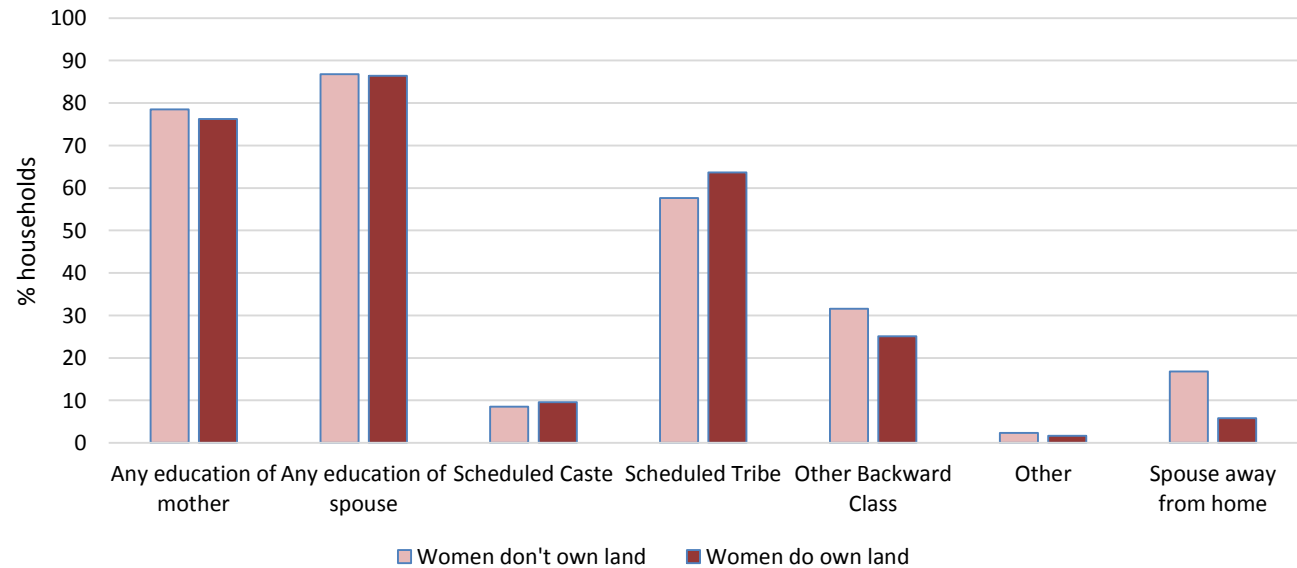
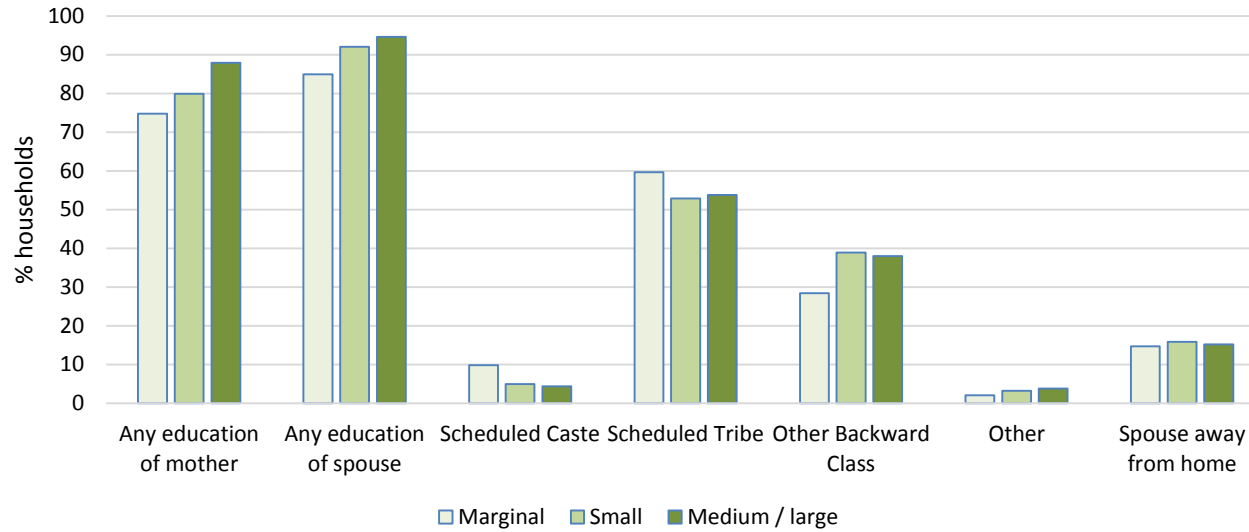
Limitations on women's role in  
agriculture if newly married,  
pregnant or child care

# Land Ownership and use → Agricultural strategies

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# Socioeconomic characteristics of landowners



# Strategies to source food

## Own land and are farming (n=37)

- Purchasing from markets with income earned from sale of produce

## Own land, do not do farming (n=21)

- Foraging from forests for wood, mahula, flowers (*mixed responses*)
- Lease out land, engage labourers

## Do not own land, but still do farming (n=1)

- Social networks
- Sharecropping
- Homestead garden
- Daily wage labourers

## Do not own land, do not do farming (n=8)

- Dependent on public distribution system for kerosene, rice (*irregularities reported*)
- Driving
- Daily wage labourers
- Seasonal Migration
- Foraging from forests

# Food sourcing strategies

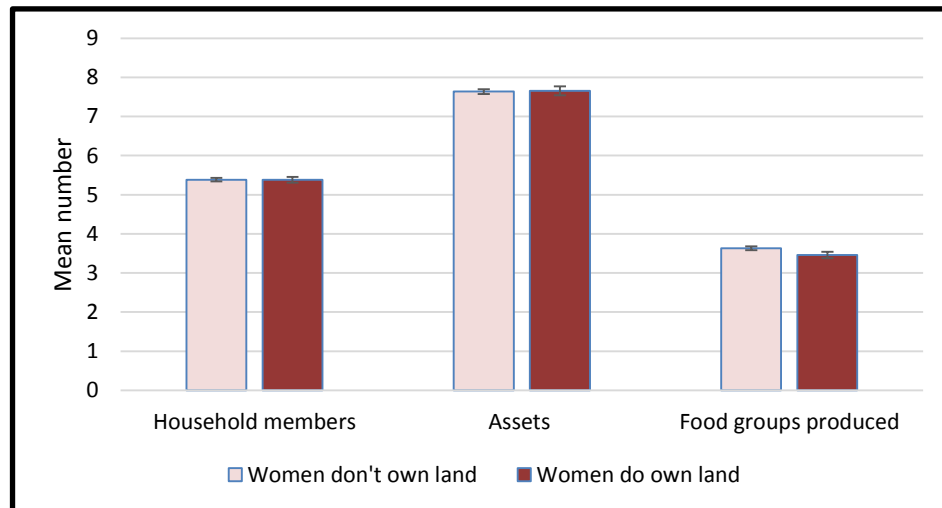
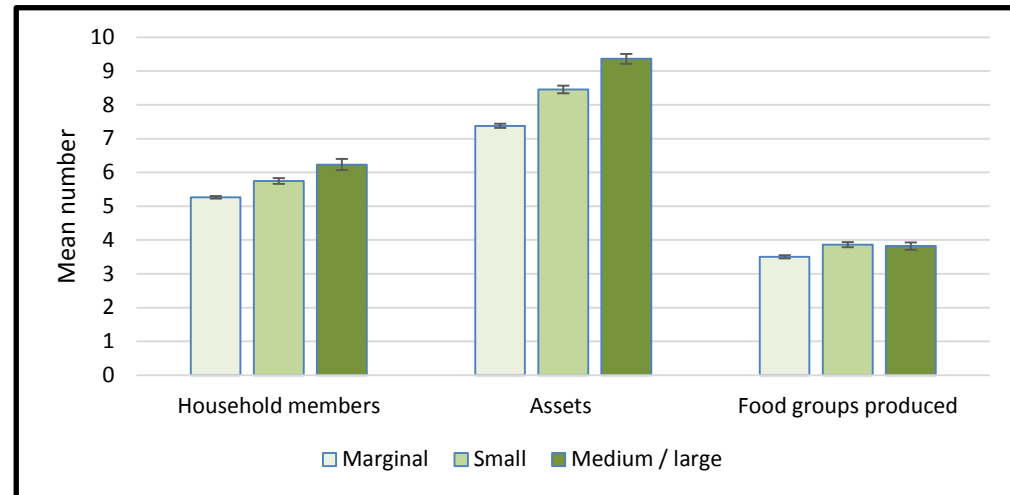


*R6- First we are getting **rice from the Government** and bringing **vegetables from market** and our **neighbors are planting vegetables in their field they are also selling** like thing we are managing. ...*

*R1- We are also doing work and bringing money, from that money we are buying all the required things. We don't have own land and cultivation. What we will do? We are managing by buying. (FGD, 4)*

R6 and R1 are women belonging to families that own no land

# Assets and Agricultural Production in landowning households



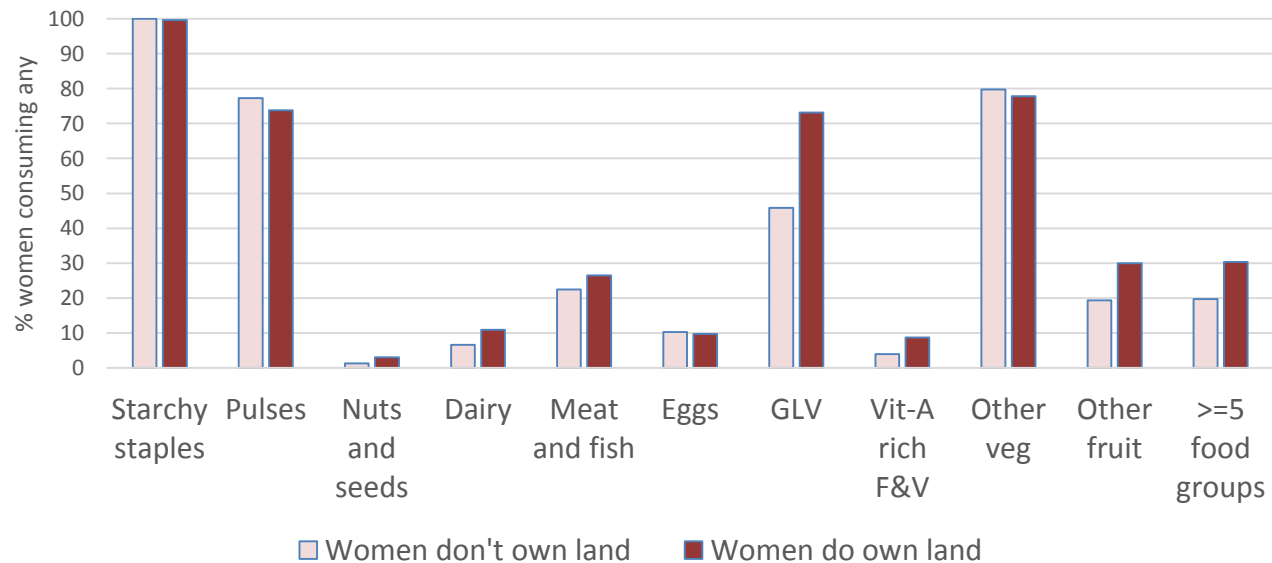
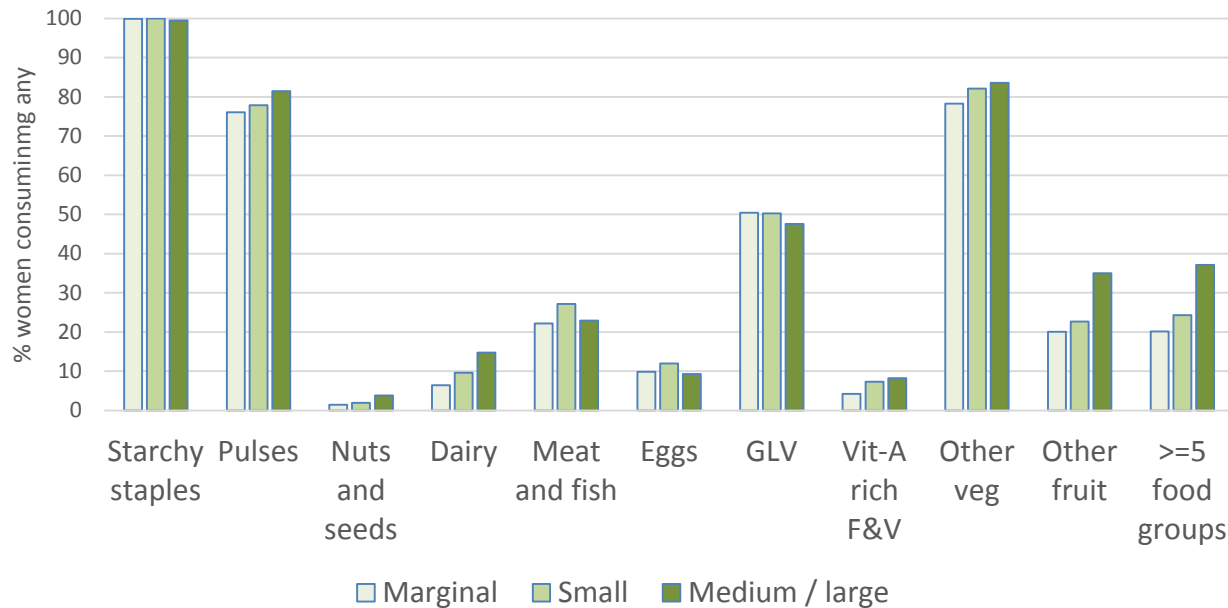


# Agricultural production strategies → Maternal dietary diversity

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# Women's dietary diversity in landowning households



# Women owning land and its implications



*R6- Yes it is helping very much. By doing farming on own; you can consume and also you can sale the rest produce. In an emergency it will help a lot. For an example suppose you have to deposit your children's fees. And you don't have money; if you saved something from it you can use in this. Like in medical expenses and in emergency situations. (FGD,4)*

R6: 37 years old, OBC, attained 10<sup>th</sup> standard; depends on family business and have no land.

# Desirable responses:

*R6- It should be in the name of women. Because I want, women should get first priority. Then we can grow, it is necessary that we should not depend on others.... R5- Now these days land are in the name of women. In my view, land should be in women's name not in husband's name...R5- Fifty percent share in every aspect. (FGD, 3)*

R5: 54 years, marginal farming R6: 20 years large farmer family

- In households where women own land there is potential for growing nutritious foods, and for controlling income from sale of produce
- Caste, tribal status and education determine size of the landholdings and whether women own land in these households
- Decision-making and usage of land have gendered dimensions which need further unpacking and analysis

# Thank you

## Any questions?

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